



# The Mystery of the Flaming Footprints

*M.V. Carey*

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## **The Mystery of the Flaming Footprints M.V. Carey**

When an eccentric local artist disappears suddenly, the three investigators look into the matter.

## **The Mystery of the Flaming Footprints Details**


Date : Published May 12th 1978 by Random House Books for Young Readers (first published 1971)

ISBN : 9780394864150

Author : M.V. Carey

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Young Adult, Childrens, Detective

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## From Reader Review The Mystery of the Flaming Footprints for online ebook

### John Yelverton says

Surprisingly well done mystery book, but it's hardly worthy to carry the name of the "Master of Suspense".

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### Mark says

original 2009 review - During my last read-a-thon (1993-1995), this book fared worst of all but reading it again 14+ years later, I think I was a little harsh back then. Certainly, the plot (and it's been so long since I read it, I'd completely forgotten what happens) is thin (the flaming footprints aren't really explained until much later and there's a lot of coincidence), but that's more than made up for in the characterisation, the repartee between the investigators (though Pete gets short-changed) and the general atmosphere that Carey conjures up, especially the way she expands Rocky Beach for the reader. Essentially, the boys are hired to try to find The Potter, who's run away just as his never-seen daughter and grandson appear, a happenstance that coincides with new people in town, all of whom have an interest in The Potter's house. I thought this was well-written, it had some nice little set-pieces in and it kept my attention, so well worth the re-appraisal, in my opinion.

2015 update - I stand by my 2009 review, though I would add that the flaming footprints is a real macguffin (you could take them out of the story and nothing about it would change - though I'm not sure what you'd then call it). This time around, I particularly enjoyed all of the detail about the junkyard (it's as if Ms Carey was keen to explore it) and the humour worked perfectly. Chief Reynolds was very grouchy and it was odd that Pete & Bob didn't appear until chapter 4, but otherwise a great read.

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### Quentin Wallace says

Another good book in the series, but not one of the top notch books.

This one dealt with an eccentric old man with a secret. It also dealt with a coup in a European country that occurred long ago but still has repercussions on modern times. And to cap it all off, someone (or someTHING) is leaving flaming footprints.

Overall, I still love this series. Highly recommended.

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### Cliff says

Another new author and along with it, some minor quibbles. M.V. Carey seems to have a different take on the Three Investigator's relationship with Chief Reynolds. From the earlier novels, it seemed that Chief Reynolds felt mostly positive towards them. Yet here, the author has decided to change this into an antagonistic relationship. It certainly makes for slightly more interesting reading, but it also doesn't ring true with the earlier books. But since Robert Arthur seemed to have ended his input into the series by this point, I

suppose this is the new canon.

Bob's history of leg trouble seems to have all but ignored at this point. One helpful change though is that in the "introduction" of the book, M.V. Carey has explicitly decided to point out that Pete, while athletic, is somewhat less than courageous...a point that was implied in the past, but never directly written.

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## **Raja99 says**

(Previously rated September 16 2007.)

Why I Reread this Book: It's one of 5 *Three Investigators* books by M. V. Carey that I saw in the Kindle store.

I found this book in the Kindle store, along with 4 others by M. V. Carey, so I eagerly snatched it up. (It turned out I unable to purchase the fifth book, *The Mystery of the Scar-Faced Beggar*; as of 2014-09-07, it's marked "Item Under Review" and "This book is currently unavailable because there is an issue with its description, content, or formatting.")

The Kindle edition turned out to be badly formatted and full of British spellings; I suspect it's based on a "pirated" ebook. I spent a few days cleaning it up (and rereading it).

I remembered so little about this story that only the fact that I rated it 3 stars here on September 16 2007 convinces me that I *had* read it before. One thing I found amusing this time: "Azimov" is an important family name in the story.

(Finished rereading by noon 2014-09-07.)

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## **EverAfter1904 says**

This book is a great book to read. When I first read it I couldn't put the page down! The Three Investigators are Jupiter, Pete, and Bob. They have a gold plated Rolls Royce which Jupiter has won in a contest. With the car, there also came a chauffeur called Worthington. Worthington likes to drive the boys everywhere they go. This series is an addictive series. When I first read it, I couldn't stop reading other books of the series. I hope you can read all of the books and enjoy them as much as I did, even though I had only read 9 books of this series. Good luck reading them!

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## **Peter says**

This is a relatively late and inferior entry in the *Three Investigators* series. The series was created by Robert Arthur, a woefully neglected author who did a great deal of work with Alfred Hitchcock; Arthur wrote the first nine and the eleventh book in the series. Unfortunately M.V. Carey was no Robert Arthur!

I recently read the book to my son. We've read many of the books in the series together. In this one, there were several ways in which the book simply didn't work. Oh, Carey included the usual iconic elements of the series; Jupiter Jones' family, and the hidden Headquarters (a trailer buried under a pile of junk), and Pete, and Bob. But there are several false notes.

One that was *particularly* annoying was the use of Jupiter's name. Arthur usually referred to him as "Jupiter" or "Jupiter Jones". Once in a while his fellow Investigators, Pete or Bob, would refer to him as "Jupe". But in this book, he is almost **always** called "Jupe" - not just by other people, but by the narrator. I'm not that picky, but seeing "Jupe" repeated over and over in paragraph after paragraph just got *weird!* It started to become a meaningless sound - you know how some words get when you say them over and over? I ended up auto-correcting it to "Jupiter" when I read it aloud, except when it was said by Pete or Bob.

The mystery itself was just...okay. Nothing particularly clever or memorable about it. If anything, the resolution was rather anticlimactic. I won't bother to give it away, though.

But another thing that was *quite* irritating was a dramatic change in a long-standing supporting character, Police Chief Reynolds. In the early books in the series he was supportive and friendly to the Three Investigators, even going so far as to give them official cards identifying them as Junior Deputies or something like that. In *Flaming Footprints*, he has been completely changed. He's sneering, abusive, hostile, and sarcastic. The change was **so** extreme that my son remarked on it. Personally, I found the recasting of Chief Reynolds as a stereotypical negative adult authority figure so irksome that I couldn't resist editorializing: "What do you want **now**, Jones?" snarled Chief Reynolds, while busily stomping on a cute kitten and simultaneously farting on a helpless old lady."

My son is more generous and/or uncritical than I am. He gave the book 4.5 stars. I feel I'm being generous in giving it three.

Oh, as always I should note that there are probably two different versions of the text extant. Older versions feature the character of Alfred Hitchcock. For legal reasons newer editions have been rewritten to replace Hitchcock with a lame-ass ersatz version. If you decide to pick this one up, try to go for an older edition. But if you're new to the series, I **strongly** recommend starting with the original nine books by Robert A. Arthur.

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## Vidmal Rajapakse says

good

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## Tantri Setyorini says

Aku dapat buku ini gratis dari temen kakakku. Kondisinya memang sudah jelek, tapi yah, I love old books. Kali ini Trio Detektif dipekerjakan oleh remaja seumuran mereka, cucu seorang seniman terkenal Rocky Beach namun eksentrik bernama Alexander Potter yang menghilang begitu saja. Lingkungan tempat tinggal Potter mendadak didatangi orang-orang mencurigakan. Anak dan cucunya diteror jejak kaki bernyalaa dan penyusup. Jupe dan kawan-kawan pun nyaris celaka saat melakukan penyidikan. Ternyata semua masalah ini ada kaitannya dengan sebuah negara bekas kerajaan bernama Lapatia, yang berhubungan erat dengan masa lalu Potter.

Mungkin banyak yang tak terlalu menikmati buku Trio Detektif ini. Secara pribadi aku berpendapat buku ini

salah satu kisah Trio Detektif yang terbaik. Kenapa? Karena aku penggemar berat sejarah, terutama sejarah yang berhubungan dengan monarki, apalagi yang dibumbui intrik dalam kejatuhannya seperti Kekaisaran Romanov.

Wangsa Azimov, yang seluruh anggota keluarganya dibantai rezim komunis, dan pewarisnya tak ditemukan jenazahnya (setidaknya bagi Potter). Kelihatannya buku ini memang terinspirasi dari kejatuhan wangsa Romanov ya.

Pokoknya suka banget.

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### **Drvincent says**

Great mystery story for mystery fans both young and old. If you, like me, read these books when you were young I urge you to read them all again. They will bring back wonderful memories and entertain you just as much now as then.

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### **Emjee says**

Nuda, nuda, nuda. Nedotiahnuté, nepochopite?né... Syn sa rozhodoval medzi 2-3 hviezdami, ja inklinujem k jednej hviezde.

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### **Redwan Hasan says**

Borrowed from Tintin? Maybe? but not that bad.

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### **Jeff Stephenson says**

AH&T3I Update: 15 read. 13 hardbacks to go (and 15 paperbacks on top of that)!

This was the first of the Mary Virginia (M. V.) Carey books and you can certainly notice a difference in tone with this story. It is a fun book. All of the T3I elements are there--even Worthington gets a few pages in which to shine as an Investigator and not just as a chauffeur. However, the voice of the book--the narrator--speaks in a different way and with a different style. For the first time in the series, the author is female, and for whatever reason, I hear the narrator of the book as a female simply because I know that a female wrote the book. That is certainly not a bad thing at all--just different. While I did not attempt to compile a reading level on this book, I would guess that this story targets a slightly older (by maybe a year or two) reader for a couple different reasons. First, the character descriptions seem to be more involved and detailed. Second, some of the vocabulary seems a little more advanced than some of the earlier Robert Arthur tales. Third and final, the European subplot is quite involved with lots of details and multiple bad guys. Overall, it was a good book and collectors / fans of the series such as myself will enjoy the mystery even if some of my much younger colleagues might struggle somewhat with it. A good start for the M.V. Carey books, but I do hope her writing style grows on me as I read some of her other T3I titles later in the series.

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## Mark says

During my last read-a-thon (1993-1995), this book fared worst of all but reading it again 14+ years later, I think I was a little harsh back then. Certainly, the plot (and it's been so long since I read it, I'd completely forgotten what happens) is thin (the flaming footprints aren't really explained until much later and there's a lot of coincidence), but that's more than made up for in the characterisation, the repartee between the investigators (though Pete gets short-changed) and the general atmosphere that Carey conjures up, especially the way she expands Rocky Beach for the reader. Essentially, the boys are hired to try to find The Potter, who's run away just as his never-seen daughter and grandson appear, a happenstance that coincides with new people in town, all of whom have an interest in The Potter's house. I thought this was well-written, it had some nice little set-pieces in and it kept my attention, so well worth the re-appraisal, in my opinion.

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## Lea says

Bisher gefallen mir die meisten M.V. Carey recht gut. Ich mochte hier besonders die schrullige Art von Mr. Potter und auch Tanta Mathildas viele Auftritte. Das Buch hat Spaß gemacht, obwohl der Fall nie so wirklich spannend wurde.

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